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concl.
~~(e) providing an award for each award-yielding symbol combination appearing in said second set on any of the paylines regardless of whether said award yielding symbol combination in the second set appeared in the first set.~~

Please amend Claim 17 as follows:

Sub. DR 17. (Three Times Amended) A method for operating a gaming device including a plurality of symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining in a controller of said gaming device a list of award yielding symbol combinations of said plurality of symbols;

(b) generating a set of said symbols, wherein one of said symbols in said set is a first wild symbol;

(c) providing an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said set including any award yielding symbol combinations including the generated first wild symbol which functions as one of the other symbols to maximize the award yielding combinations;

(d) selecting at least one but not all of the symbols in the set except for the first wild symbol in the set for individual replacement and individually replacing each said selected symbol with a second wild symbol; and

(e) providing an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said set including any award yielding symbol combinations including the first and second wild symbols which replace other symbols and each function as one of the symbols to maximize the award yielding symbol combinations.

Please amend Claim 31 as follows:

Sub. D4 > 31. (Three Times Amended) A method for determining an award in a slot machine including a plurality of symbols and a plurality of award yielding combinations of said symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) randomly generating on a plurality of paylines a first set of said symbols;
- (b) providing a player an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said first set on any of said paylines;
- (c) selecting at least one but not all of the symbols in said first set for individual replacement and individually replacing each said selected symbol with one of the symbols; and
- (d) providing an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said second set on any of said paylines including all award yielding symbol combinations in the second set regardless of whether an award was provided for such award yielding combinations in the first set.

Please amend Claim 34 as follows:

Sub. D6 > 34. (Twice Amended) A slot machine comprising:

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- a plurality of reels and a plurality of paylines with the reels;
- a plurality of symbols on said reels, said symbols including a wild symbol;
- a plurality of symbol combinations that each yield an award if generated by said reels; and
- a processor which controls said reels, wherein said processor: (i) causes the reels to generate a set of said symbols along the paylines; (ii) provides an award for each award yielding symbol combination in said set on any of the paylines, said wild symbol functions as at least one other non-wild symbol; (iii) substitutes another one of the non-wild symbols in said set with another wild symbol; and (iv) provides an award for each award yielding symbol combination in said set on any of the paylines, regardless of whether the combination includes a wild symbol, wherein each wild symbol functions as at least one other non-wild symbol.

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Please amend Claim 35 as follows:

35. (Twice Amended) A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a memory device which maintains a plurality of symbols and a plurality of award yielding symbol combinations, wherein the processor communicates with the memory device to:

generate a set of symbols, wherein one of said symbols is a first wild symbol;

provide an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said set, wherein said first wild symbol functions as one of the symbols;

individually substitute a second wild symbol for at least one but not all other non-wild symbols in said set; and

provide an award for each award yielding symbol combination appearing in said set, wherein each wild symbol including the first and second wild symbols function as one of the symbols.

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Please amend Claim 36 as follows:

36. (Amended) The gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device;

a memory device which maintains a plurality of playing cards and a plurality of award yielding playing card combinations, wherein the processor communicates with the memory device and display device to:

randomly generate and display a set of said playing cards, wherein one of said playing cards in said set is a wildcard;

provide and display an award for each award yielding playing card combination appearing in said set including said wildcard;

individually change said wildcard to one of the playing cards in the set and display said change; and

provide and display an award for each playing card combination appearing in said changed set, regardless of whether the processor previously provided an award for said playing card combination.